



THE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE FOR MICHIGAN

The Statewide Business-Labor Coalition

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Dear Senate Health Policy Committee Member,

The Economic Alliance for Michigan has a long standing position opposing any state-required health mandates. We have actively lobbied against mandates such as required Autism coverage and Oral Chemotherapy drugs, for example. We have concerns with legislation that restricts the ability of purchasers (whether, employers, associations, unions or individuals) to determine the types of health care coverage that best suits their needs. We advocate that state regulation should not be used to favor certain health care services or providers, nor dictate whom and how purchasers must pay for services.

We also oppose legislation that impedes the decisions on health benefit choices by purchasers. Included, are approaches where each covered person must record their desire for health benefits considered socially and/or morally object able by some. Senate bills 612 and 613 are mandates that prohibit coverage of abortion services in any health plan offered through a State-based health care exchange or offered in health plans outside of an exchange. Only allowing these services to be covered through a separate rider is a proposed state regulation that dictates how purchasers must pay for a service.

Further, our members have strong concerns about the mandate in Senate Bill 614 that places specific requirements on them in order to make a decision on what services that may want to provide for their employees and it impedes the ability for our labor members to collectively bargain for a benefit they may wish to have offered to their members. These unfair requirements restrict the employers' ability to freely choose which services they may want to provide to their members, while also placing the cost of abortion services directly onto the employer by prohibiting these services to be a part of the overall premium cost share for the employees. It also increases their administration burden and cost for providing health benefits.

The Economic Alliance for Michigan strongly opposes these mandates and respectfully ask that you to oppose Senate Bills 612, 613 and 614.

Please feel free to contact us any time with questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Bret Jackson

President



THE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE FOR MICHIGAN
The Statewide Business-Labor Coalition

Sarah Roberts

Legislative Director

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